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Mr. O. F. Truett, of Oconto, Wis., writes to the editor: "The June number of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE is worth the price of three years' subscription. Your paper is but beginning to be appreciated."

Subscriptions.

Please, if possible, avoid sending any more postage stamps for subscriptions. We will take them, but would much rather have a postal order, or that you would send per registered letter. For a single subscription (50 cents) paste silver in a piece of stiff paper before placing it in the envelope. All subscriptions now begin in May.

The Ladies are Helping.

Our thanks are due to Mrs. Martha L. Goss, of Elk Point, Dakota Territory, for a liberal club of subscribers from that place. We regret to hear that the grasshoppers are destroying the crops in that locality. It is the bounden duty of the General Government to spend large sums, if need be, to rid the country west of the Missouri of these terrible pests.

The Soldiers of the War.—A Most Interesting Table.

In the August number, we will publish a table, kindly furnished us by the Adjutant General's Department, showing the number of men, their times of service, and the States and Territories from whence they came, in the Union Army. This alone will be worth more than a year's subscription. Every soldier in the country needs it. Forward subscriptions from all parts of the country.

An Arrears Matter.

The following communication has just come to hand.

NEWTON, KANS., July 1, 1879.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

The Commissioner of Pensions, in a circular, says that applications for arrears will not be adjusted in routine as applications are received; that there is a law regarding that matter, and they will be adjusted according to that law. Will you please give us that law through the columns of your paper, and oblige

MANY PENSIONERS.

We know of no law whatever to that effect.

Equalization of Bounties in a Political Platform.

Among the resolutions adopted by the State Convention of the National or Greenback party, held at St. Paul, Minn., June 10, we find the following:

Eleventh.—We are in favor of the equalization of the soldiers' bounties.

Now, what phase political affairs may assume within the next twelve months, He alone who knoweth all things can determine. There are two leading parties in the country, the Republican and Democratic; but there is an unknown factor in the shape of the National or Greenback party whose strength may ere long exhibit itself as a power to be dreaded both by those who pull the wires of the Republican and Democratic organizations. The men who compose this party are made up of those who see neither present relief nor future prosperity in the course pursued by the two old parties, and "hope for better things" in this fresh organization. How far the soldiers of the country may see fit to cut aloof from their former political affiliations and ally themselves with this new party we know not, but from constant correspondence with them in all parts of the country, one thing we are sure of, and that is there is a rapidly growing disgust and indignation felt by them toward their pretended friends of both parties who are constantly delaying the passage of a bill they all demand—the Equalization Bounty Bill. Who are responsible for the failure to pass this bill in the Senate at its last session? It had already gone through the House of Representatives and been reported by General Logan in the Senate. The matter has been discussed thoroughly in previous Congresses, and the justice of the debt has never been denied. In five minutes it could have been disposed of if the will to pass it had existed. Are the Senators from the States lately in rebellion responsible for its failure? We trow not, for it must be said to their credit as honorable gentlemen that never have they thrown stumbling-blocks in the way of recognizing the debts due Union soldiers. But for them that most scandalous and disgraceful of all bills ever introduced in Congress, the Sixty Surgeon bill, would have passed, and the United States would have become a huge robber plundering from her maimed and broken-down children. Now, the National or Greenback party already polls a tremendous vote, and with the addition of the solid soldiers' vote the election of 1880 would surely be thrown into the House of Representatives—for the National and soldiers' vote cast *en masse* would carry Maine, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and probably New York and some other States. If, then, the resolution referred to should be incorporated in the platform of the National Convention of the National or Greenback party, and the Republican and Democratic leaders continue to ignore the claims of the soldiers by postponing and delaying the passage of this Equalization Bounty bill, the soldiers will ere long break off from their former political affiliations. Men are governed probably in a majority of their actions by the dictates of their pockets, but in this case the soldiers would be influenced both by policy and principle. It now really looks as if both the old parties were debauched by the money power, which has no sympathy with the brave, poor soldier. Soldiers, we advise you to forsake no party, to join no party—but if your former professed friends desert you and refuse to acknowledge your rights, you are free, intelligent citizens, and will decide within yourselves what should be your action. If we were to intimate anything, we would say, give the old parties one more chance in Congress this winter.

A Lay Sermon.

"And some fell among thorns,
 And some fell on stony ground,
 And some fell in good ground."

Christ's Sermon.

We cannot but think the gospel of patriotism was well preached on the 30th day of May last in all parts of the country where the remains of Union soldiers are deposited, and we shall learn in the course of time whether a genuine revival has been the result. Undoubtedly the seed was sown abundantly. Will it fall among thorns, and be choked by the careless indifference of men seeking only greed, and, like the swine beneath the oak devouring the acorns, utterly thoughtless as to where they originated, or on the stony hearts of those totally insen-

sible to words of truth and beauty, or will they fall in good ground and bear abundant fruit to gladden the hearts of our brave defenders who are living and the loved ones of those who are now no more?

There is nothing cheaper in this world than lip-service. Mouthings, intended to please the people for a few hours, are readily delivered. We are reminded, while thus writing, of the anecdote of a benevolent Friend, or Quaker, who, upon hearing great sympathy expressed by a stranger for one in much pecuniary distress, while refusing to give a penny, remarked, "Friend, thy economy is in the wrong direction; thou shouldst be more sparing with thy tongue and less with thy purse." Not that we would be considered presenting the soldier as an object of charity, by any means, for a beggar suffering for food and clothing, and a soldier seeking his just rights, are entirely different objects. The comparison is only intended to hold good when illustrating the difference between words and deeds. What, then, do we ardently hope may be the effect of the good words spoken on Decoration Day? 1st. A revival of the same warm feelings towards our soldiers as was manifested when they were marching for the field, or when they were returning war-worn and wounded. Now that peace sheds its benignant rays all over our land, and we are reaping all the blessings secured through their valor and devotion, is the fitting time to appreciate them truly. They have secured to us the harvest of blessings, and the harvest-time is a more fitting season for thankfulness than the seed-time. 2d. Actuated by this thankful spirit, we would that it should be manifested individually and by the acts of our States and Nation. Our duty to the dead is a reverence for their memories and a determination to deal justly with the dear ones they left behind; our duty to the living is to recognize all his rights in the fullest and most liberal degree, and to favor him as a citizen for official position and in the avocation he pursues. For instance: Many thousands of our soldiers receiving disgracefully-small pensions for wounds or disabilities, are pursuing some light business which barely enables them to support themselves and families. Let us employ them in preference to others when their services are needed, and be ever ready to throw a few dollars into their baskets. And then the soldiers' widows and orphans; if you wish, for instance, the services of a laundress or seamstress or a clerk, and know or hear of a soldier's widow pursuing or adapted to such business, make her your first choice if her work is faithfully done; and if you desire to hire a boy for farm or workshop or counting-house, and a bright-looking young man applies to you, saying, "My father lost his life at Gettysburg," give him your preference, if in all other respects he is equal to others wishing the situation. And then, too, we may perhaps show a more general regard for our soldiers, a more practical exhibition of our estimation of their services by establishing "Soldiers' Homes" in far more places in the United States than now found, than in any other way. All our professions of gratitude for Union soldiers are mere "sound and fury, signifying nothing," if we are not willing to care for them in the winters of their life, and when prostrated and crushed by wounds and the hardships and exposures of a soldier's life. No American soldier should ever be forced to become a beggar or an inmate of a pauper's asylum. Those who are entirely helpless through their wounds receive pensions which will secure them comfortable board, lodgings, and little delicacies. All single men would appreciate a well-kept "Home" among their old comrades in arms. Those who are but partially disabled, and receive but light pensions, might do many "chores" about the farm attached to the "Home," to repay their cost of living. Here is a tangible, living idea for patriotic Union citizens to act upon. Let men of wealth, in their wills, endow these Homes, so that they shall all be upon a fine monetary footing, and coming generations will say, "Behold how our country has cared for those who battled for the liberties we now enjoy." And lastly, it should be the aim of every voter in our land to know that no man is placed in official position who, by word or act, has shown any disposition to deny the justice of the soldiers' claim to all his rights, or the nobility of the cause for which he periled his life.